

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/815,971
Response filed July 27, 2006
Reply to OA dated May 16, 2006

AMENDMENT TO THE DRAWINGS:

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Figure 2. This sheet, which includes Figure 2, replaces the original sheet including Figure 2.

In Figure 2, the block boxes contained within this figure have been labeled consistent with the descriptions thereof in the applicants' specification.

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REMARKS

Claims 1 - 28 are currently pending in this patent application, claims 1, 3, 7 and 22 - 27 being independent claims. Claims 1, 3, 7, 9, 12, 14, 15, 18 and 20 - 27 have been amended in order to more particularly point out, and distinctly claim the subject matter to which the applicants regard as their invention. The applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been added. It is believed that this Amendment is fully responsive to the Office Action dated May 16, 2006.

Figure 2 is objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a) because they fail to label the block boxes illustrated therein as described in the specification. The applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this objection.

The applicants submit herewith an annotated sheet and a corrected sheet of drawings with the respective labels to the block boxes shown in Figure 2. The applicants respectfully request that the corrected sheet for Figure 2 be approved by the Examiner.

Claims 9, 12, 14, 15, 18 and 19 have been objected to for the reasons set forth in the paragraph bridging pages 2 and 3 of the outstanding Action. The applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this objection

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The language of each of claims 9, 12, 14, 15, 18 and 19 has been corrected in the manner suggested by the Examiner. Accordingly, the withdrawal of the outstanding objections to these claims is in order, and is therefore respectfully solicited.

Furthermore, claims 1 - 28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, for being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter, which the applicants regard as their invention. The applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this rejection.

As indicated above, claims 1, 3, 7, 18 and 20 - 27 have been amended in order to more particularly point out, and distinctly claim the subject matter to which the applicants regard as their invention, and in order to correct certain informalities therein, including those pointed out by the Examiner.

Accordingly, the withdrawal of the outstanding indefiniteness rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, is in order, and is therefore respectfully solicited.

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Claims 25 - 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 for the reasons set forth in the last full paragraph on page 3 of the outstanding Action. The applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this rejection.

In order to help expedite the processing of this patent application, the applicants have amended claims 25 - 27 in the manner suggested by the Examiner. Accordingly, the withdrawal of the outstanding rejection under 35 U.S.C. §101 is in order, and is therefore respectfully solicited.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, claims, as amended, are in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

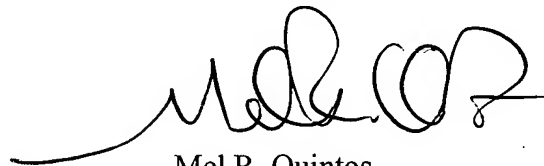
If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

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In the event that this paper is not timely filed, the applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Enclosures: Replacement and Annotated Drawing Sheets (Figure 2)



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FIG. 2

